

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9224

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 1775

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (NIXON, RICHARD M), PFOR, EEC, DA

SUBJ: DANISH REACTION TO BRUSSELS MEETING

SUMMARY: DANISH REACTION TO HEADS OF GOVT MEETING AT NAC JUNE 26
HAS BEEN VERY FAVORABLE, WITH OFFICIALS STRESSING THAT THE TIMING ON
THE EVE OF THE VISIT TO MOSCOW WAS BENEFICIAL FOR THE ALLIANCE.
THEY FEEL THAT MOST SIGNIFICANT OF PRIME MINISTER HARTLING'S
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BILATERAL MEETINGS WAS WITH HAROLD WILSON. DANES ARE PLEASED THAT

THE SECRETARY HIMSELF WILL INFORM THE NAC OF THE RESULTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S CONVERSATIONS IN THE SOVIET UNION. END SUMMARY.

1. DCM WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN REACTION FROM TWO SENIOR OFFICIALS WHO ACCOMPANIED HARTLING TO BRUSSELS--HENNING GOTTLIEB, HARTLING'S CONSULTANT ON INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS, AND KORSGAARD-PEDERSEN (K-P), HEAD OF THE MFA'S FIRST POLITICAL OFFICE.

2. K-P, WHO HAD JUST ATTENDED A MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL AT WHICH HARTLING HAD BRIEFED SENIOR DANISH OFFICIALS, SAID THAT HE COULD SUM UP BY SAYING THAT THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE OTHER DANES WERE VERY PLEASED WITH THE BRUSSELS MEETING. WHILE THE TIME FOR CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE HEADS OF GOVT HAD BEEN LIMITED THE MEETING HAD PROVED TO BE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR DENMARK, AT LEAST, TO RESTATE ITS DEDICATION TO THE ALLIANCE AND TO MAKE KNOWN ITS VIEWS TO ITS PARTNERS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL. IT HAD ALSO PERMITTED SOME OF THE PARTICIPANTS TO BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH EACH OTHER, WITH RESULTANT INVITATIONS. FRENCH PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC HAD ACCEPTED AN INVITATION FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO DENMARK ON JULY 31. HELMUT SCHMIDT ALSO INDICATED THAT HE WOULD "DROP IN" FOR AN UNOFFICIAL VISIT THIS SUMMER, PERHAPS AT SOME TIME WHILE HE IS SAILING IN NORTHERN GERMAN WATERS.

3. K-P REGARDED HARTLING'S TALK WITH WILSON AS HIS MOST IMPORTANT CONVERSATION IN BRUSSELS. WILSON HAD EXPLAINED THAT THE LABOR PARTY POSITION ON EC MEMBERSHIP WAS THE SAME AS SEVEN YEARS AGO AT THE TIME OF THE LAST FRENCH VETO, I.E; THEY WANTED TO BE IN BUT UNDER REASONABLE TERMS. WILSON HAD EXPRESSED THE BELIEF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR BRITAIN TO STAY IN AFTER THE RENEGOTIATIONS, UNDER THE PRESENT TERMS OF BOTH THE TREATY OF ROME AND TREATY OF ACCESSION. THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS HAD DISCUSSED THE REFERENDUM QUESTION AT SOME LENGTH IN THE LIGHT OF THE DANISH EXPERIENCE AT THE TIME OF THEIR ENTRY INTO THE EC. HARTLING HAD STRESSED THE DIFFICULTY OF WINNING A REFERENDUM AND INDICATED THE NECESSITY OF MOUNTING A CONVINCING AND THOROUGH CAMPAIGN WELL IN ADVANCE. HE POINTED OUT, IN THIS CONNECTION, THAT THE PROBLEMS WHICH ARE BEING DISCUSSED IN THE RENEGOTIATION CONTEXT ARE NOT EASY TO EXPLAIN IN SIMPLE TERMS TO VOTING PUBLIC.

5. K-P SAID THAT PORTUGUESE PRIME MINISTER SOARES HAD AT HIS REQUEST SEEN
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DANISH PRIME MINISTER GULDBERG AND SEVERAL OTHER EC PRIME MINISTERS IN AN ATTEMPT TO GET A FEELING AS TO HOW THEY SAW PORTUGAL'S FUTURE RELATIONS WITH THE EC. K-P SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE ANSWERS GIVEN BY THE EC PRIME MINISTERS WHO HAD SEEN SOARES HAD BEEN GENERALLY FAVORABLE AND THAT THEY HAD EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE EVOLUTION OF CONDITIONS WITHIN PORTUGAL WOULD CONTINUE. (GULDBERG IS SAID IN THE PRESS TO HAVE TOLD SOARES THAT DENMARK WOULD TAKE A "POSITIVE" POSITION TOWARD PORTUGUESE ASSOCIATION WITH THE EC, ON THE BASIS OF CONTINUING DEMO-

CRATIC DEVELOPMENTS.)

6. IN HIS COMMENTS, GOTTLIEB TOOK PARTICULAR PAINS TO PRAISE THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH WHICH HE CALLED "VERY GOOD AND VERY WELL FORMULATED". HE ADDED THAT AFTER THE OTHER 14 HAD SPOKEN THE PRESIDENT HAD DONE A "REMARKABLE" JOB OF SUMMING UP. GOTTLIEB SAID HE WOULD CHARACTERIZE THE MEETING AS VERY GOOD FOR THE ALLIANCE AND, HE ADDED WITH A SMILE, ALSO VERY GOOD FOR DENMARK.

7. COMMENT: SEVERAL PAPERS HAVE COMMENTED (ALTHOUGH NO OFFICIALS HAVE MENTIONED TO US) THAT HARTLING DID NOT HAVE A BILATERAL WITH THE PRESIDENT AS HE HAD REQUESTED. THEY DID NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD HAD A TALK WITH THE PRESIDENT DURING THE RECEPTION AND HAD REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED THE DANISH DEFENSE COMPROMISE AND CONTRIBUTION TO NATO. IT WAS ALSO RECALLED THAT HARTLING HAD HAD A BILATERAL TALK WITH THE PRESIDENT AT THE POMPIDOU FUNERAL.

8. ALL IN ALL, THE BRUSSELS MEETING SEEMS TO BE REGARDED IN COPENHAGEN AS A CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS, A PLUS FOR THE ALLIANCE AND A DEMONSTRATION OF THE US WILLINGNESS TO MAKE "CONSULTATION" MEANINGFUL. CROWE

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